**ONGC'i Order for supply of pipes to M/s PJ. Pipes Ltd.**

2915. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 2929 given in the Rajya Sabha on 18th August, 1993 and state:

(a) how, by whom, at what rate and on what terms and conditions the remaining quantity, i.e. S3914 meters of pipes of the ONGC order dated the 9th December, 1987 which was not complied with M/s P.J. Pipes Ltd., was obtained;

(b) how much loss Government had to suffer on this account and what steps Government had taken to recover the loss;

(c) what were the reasons for which the delivery period of three ONGC orders dated the 9th and 16th July, 1991 was extended beyond 31st July, 1992 on which date, on whose instance and on whose orders the period was extended;

(d) what was the prevailing price when these orders were placed in 1990, in May 1991 in 1992 and in the dates when the orders were fully executed;

(e) whether the prices declined by 30 per cent to 35 per cent in 1992 and the company was benefitted for about Rs. 7 crores by buying these pipes from international market at lower price during the extended period; and

(f) if so, what are the facts in this regard and what steps Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) On review of the requirements, *it* was decided not to procure the balance quantity.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The deliveries were extended beyond July, 1992 by the competenl authority, with provision for Liquidated Damages, for the following reasons:—

(i) due to Gulf war in 1991, the receipt of raw material by M/s P.J. Pipes & Vessels Limited had been delayed.

(ii) due to changes in Export Import Policy, M/s P.J. Pipes & Vessels had suspended supplies.

(iii) during April, 1993, due to bomb blast and riots in Bombay, normal life was disrupted affecting their production schedule.

(iv) the rates of M/s P.J. Pipes were lower than the rates received in othei tenders during the period.

(d) The rates obtained in 1990, 1991 & 1992 were Rs. 1,06,594.69 (ex-works) Rs. 1,25,114.76 (CIF) and Rs 1,68,612.45 (CIF) per 100 mtrs respectively and in the case of one smai quantity @ Rs. 82,292.54 per 100 mtrs (CIF).

The rates during January, 1993 wen Rs. 1,46,716.00 per 100 mtrs. In May 1993 the supply order Nos. C-0151, 015: & 0154 were fully executed.

(e) The rates authorised to M/s P.J Pipes under the supply orders were lowe than the prevailing prices obtained "ii 1992.

(f) Does not arise.

**Proposal for laying up pipeline fron western off-shore to southern region**

2916. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUN AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government hav approved any proposal for laying up o pipeline from Western off-shore to th Southern region with a suitable landfa point along the Western coast;

(b) if so, what are the details in thi regard;

(c) by when the proposal is likely to be implemented;

(d) whether Government have also approved any proposal for providing more gas to Maharashtra and for setting up of second gas terminal at Usar; and

(e) if so, what are the details of the proposals and on which date Government's decision was taken and conveyed to the Government of Maharashtra in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) to (c) The concept of laying a gas pipeline from the Western offshore to the Southern region has' been approved in principle. The proposal envisages the use of surplus gas from the Western offshore. This is also proposed to be supplemented by import of natural gas from the Middle East subject to its techno-economic feasibility.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

**Cooking Gas to Rural Areas**

2917. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rural population has been denied its right to use cooking gas on flimsy technical reasons; and

(b) whether Government propose to stop this discrimination against them and make necessary arrangements to enable them to avail their right as a citizen of this country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) New LPG distributorships are opened by Public Sector LPG Marketing Companies, subject to viability, in a phased manner at places with a population of 20,000 and above and not on rural/urban basis. However, the Government "have allowed parallel marketing and sale of LPG by private agencies at market determined prices in any market of their choice, including rural areas.

**Exodus of specialized staff of oil companies from public sector to private sector**

2918. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that the public sector oil companies have been facing large scale exodus of specialised staff to private refineries;

(b) if so, what is the number of the specialised staff which have left the public sector oil companies (with name) during 1992 and since the beginning of 1993 (till-date);

(c) what are the major causes identified for the exodus of the specialised staff from the oil companies;
and

(d) what measures have been taken by Government to check the trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) There is no such exodus.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Plans of Gail for setting up LPG plants**

2919. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Limited has chalked out an ambitious plan to set up LPG plants at several places'in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the LPG plants likely to be set up in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and